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BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1951.



Medical Officer of Health:

DR. A. BARLOW, M.B., Ch.B.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
TOWN HALL,  
BRIERFIELD.

JUNE, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

In accordance with a Ministry of Health instruction, an Interim Report only, on the lines of the last report, is presented for the year 1951. It includes only essential or urgent matters which have affected public health during the year. All records and statistics are being preserved so that the annual records may, as far as practicable, be continuous and complete.

I have pleasure, therefore, in submitting for your consideration the following interim report on the Health, Sanitary conditions and Public Health Administration in the Urban District of Brierfield for the year ended 31st December, 1951.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. BARLOW,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1951 according to the Rate Book was 2,500, the Rateable Value being £43,600, and the sum represented by a penny rate being £180.

The social conditions were good, but there was some over-crowding. The chief industry is Cotton Weaving, with a small amount of Spinning and Dyeing.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

HOME POPULATION: Registrar General's estimate  
mid-1951 - 6936.

BIRTHS:	M.	F.	Total
Live Births (a) Legitimate	43	51	94
(b) Illegitimate	4	4	8
Total -	47	55	102

Still Births	2	1	3
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DEATHS:	M.	F.	Total
(a) Within the District	39	51	90
(b) Outside the District	13	27	40
Total -	52	78	130

BIRTH RATES per 1000 estimated home population, mid-1951:

(a) Crude	14.7
(b) Adjusted	16.2

DEATH RATES per 1000 estimated home population, mid-1951:

(a) Crude	18.3
(b) Adjusted	16.3

#### MATERNAL MORTALITY:

(a) Deaths from Pregnancy, childbirth & abortion	Nil
(b) Mortality Rate per 1000 total (live and still)	
Births:	Nil

DEATH RATE of Infants under one year of age:

(a) All Infants per 1000 live births	..10
(b) Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	10
(c) Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil

#### NEC-NATAL MORTALITY:

(a) Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	1
(b) Mortality Rate per 1000 live births	10

# SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

## Per 1000 Estimated Population

	<u>Live Birth Rate</u>	<u>Crude Death Rate</u>
Mean of 5 years - 1946-50	15.5	14.2
Year 1950	12.6	14.6
Year 1951	14.7	18.3
Increase or decrease in 1951 on 5 years' average 1946-1950	- 0.8	plus 4.1
Previous Year	plus 2.1	plus 3.7

	<u>Maternal Mortality Rate</u>		<u>Rate of Deaths of infants under 1 yr. per 1000 Live Births.</u>
	<u>Per 1000 Live Births</u>	<u>Per 1000 Live and Still Births</u>	
Mean of 5 years - 1946-50	Nil	Nil	29
Year 1950	Nil	Nil	22
Year 1951	Nil	Nil	10
Increase or decrease in 1951 on 5 years' average 1946-1950	Nil	Nil	- 19
Previous Year	Nil	Nil	- 12

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR.

Total cases at all ages.	Under 1 yr.	Total cases removed to hospital from the District.										Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to the District.
		1- 3	3- 5	5- 10	10- 15	15- 25	25- 45	45- 65	65 and over	Total cases removed to hospital from the District.		
Dysentery	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Measles	103	3	29	40	29	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
Whooping Cough	9	1	2	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	14	-	1	7	5	-	1	-	-	-	8	-
Pneumonia	8	-	-	-	-	2	2	3	1	-	1	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Polioomyelitis	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria*	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
TOTALS:	138	4	33	53	36	1	4	2	3	2	12	-

\* This case was not confirmed at the sanatorium, and the diagnoses was changed to Tonsillitis.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Disease.

There was a heavy epidemic of influenza in the district in the first quarter of the year. This epidemic lasted almost two months and resulted in the mortality of some old people. In the last quarter there was a large number of cases of Mumps when several adults were affected.



# TUBERCULOSIS

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1951.

<u>AGE PERIOD</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>				<u>DEATHS</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
35 - 45	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	4	3	-	1	-	2	-	-

## CASES ON REGISTER AT 31st DECEMBER, 1951.

On the Register at the end of December, 1951, there were 41 cases of Tuberculosis, 28 pulmonary and 13 non-pulmonary.

	Under 1 yr.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	Over 65	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	1	7	5	6	5	3	1	28
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis:										
Spine	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Cervical Glands	-	-	4	1	-	2	-	-	-	7
Testis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Abdomen	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rt. Knee Joint	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Both Legs	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Peritoneum	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	-	1	7	8	6	8	6	4	1	41

As these cases are dealt with by the County Tuberculosis Officer, we have no direct information about the number of cases receiving allowances.



### SUMMARY OF DEATHS

<u>CAUSE OF DEATH</u>	Under 1 yr.	1- 5	5- 15	15- 25	25- 65	65 & Over	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Cancer	-	-	-	-	7	17	24
Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	-	-	-	-	6	20	26
Coronary Disease and Angina	-	-	-	-	6	9	15
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	2	3	5
Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	5	17	22
Influenza	-	-	-	-	2	5	7
Pneumonia	1	1	-	-	1	1	4
Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Congenital Malformation	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Accident	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Suicide	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Senility	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Gangrene of leg	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Aspiration Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pernicious Anaemia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Toxaemia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	1	1	-	1	33	91	127

### VENEREAL DISEASE.

The nearest clinic is at Burnley. Any cases discovered are advised to attend the Burnley clinic.

### ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

There are no Social Workers in this area, but the Burnley and District House of Help does good service in this connection.

### LABORATORY WORK

No. of Specimens Examined During 1951:

Result.

(a) Swabs for Diptheria	Nil
(b) Faeces for Pathogenic Organisms	3
(c) Sputum for Tuberculosis	Nil
	<u>3</u>

Negative.

## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

Public Health Officers: Major W.D. Haigh, M.I.M.E., M.R.S.I.,  
SURVEYOR & SANITARY INSPECTOR. F.I.A.S.

Mr. B. Duerden, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.  
ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Water Supplies: Brierfield is supplied with a constant supply of water from the mains of Nelson Corporation, and there were no new sources of supply during the year. The water is of good quality and in good supply, apart from a few houses in Marsden Heights area, where the supply is intermittent, and a few houses in various streets where, probably, the joint service pipes are too small. With only three exceptions, all the houses in the district are supplied direct from Public Mains.

### Water Sampling:

(a) Public Supply -	No. of Bacteriological Examinations:	2
	Results:	Satisfactory
(b) Private Supply-	No. of Bacteriological Examinations:	8
	Results:	3 samples unsatisfactory (large B.Coli Counts).
	No. of Chemical Analysis:	2
	Results:	1 sample unsatisfactory

Action taken in respect of Contaminated Private Supplies: Occupants of premises informed and storage wells cleaned out with subsequent improvement in results of further samples. The owners of the premises were notified and recommended to arrange for a supply of towns' water to premises where possible.

Supplies to Houses: No. of dwellings supplied direct from Public Mains: 2497

Sewage Disposal: No extensions were made to sewers or sewage works during the year, and the existing services and arrangements have been efficiently maintained.

### Closet Accommodation:

There are (a) 10 pail closets in the district at isolated cottages and farms;  
(b) Over 1000 waste water closets, and  
(c) Approximately 1027 fresh w.c.'s.  
14 waste water closets were converted to fresh water closets during the year by private owners.

### Scavenging:

This was carried out by direct labour with a two ton Bedford Tipping Waggon. Domestic refuse was collected weekly free of charge from private houses, shops and mills, and disposed of by controlled tipping on the Council's tip.

## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION (Cont...)

Salvage: This work was efficiently maintained and the following amounts of materials were salvaged during the year:

T.	C.	Q.	lbs.	<u>Materials</u>	<u>Amount Realized</u>		
					£.	s.	d.
115	8	2	0	Waste Paper	1733	0	1
73	11	0	0	Kitchen Waste	236	12	11
1	19	2	0	Rags	65	4	4
-	-	2	0	Aluminium	1	14	2
-	1	1	0	Bones	-	7	8
14	12	1	0	Scrap Iron	22	16	3
205	13	0	0		£2059	15	5

Comparative figures regarding salvage over the last three years are shown in the following tables:

1951				1950				1949			
T.	C.	Q.	Value	T.	C.	Q.	Value	T.	C.	Q.	Value
205	13	0	£2059	260	4	1	£1132	256	7	2	£1159

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

	<u>Premises</u> <u>Visited</u>	<u>Nuisances</u> <u>Discovered</u>	<u>Notices</u> <u>Prel. Stat.</u>		<u>Remedied</u>
Sanitary Inspections during 1951 (including housing).	1331	439	151	17	281

## DISINFESTATION

Houses found to be infested	....	1
Houses disinfested	....	1

When required disinfestation is by means of Vermicene and Cescones poison gas carried out by the local authority at the expense of the owner or occupier.

## HOUSING

CONDITIONS: The majority of the houses are in rows, stone built 30 to 70 years old. Later types are brick built, semi-detached mainly, many being owner/occupied, and well maintained.

STATISTICS: 14 traditional permanent houses were erected for the local authority during the year, and one private house was erected by private builders. 21 permanent houses were in hand at the 31st December, 1951.

CLEARANCE AREAS: Three very old houses were included in a clearance area during the year and were approved by the Ministry.

OVERCROWDING: 6 new cases of overcrowding occurred during the year and 27 dwellings were known to be overcrowded at the end of the year, involving 140 persons in 33 families.

## HOUSING (Cont....)

HOUSES REQD. TO ALLEVIATE OVERCROWDING: There is a definite shortage of two bedroom type houses. To meet overcrowding, 12 three bedroom, 30 two bedroom, and 30 one bedroom type houses are required. Houses are also required for newly married couples and bungalows for old people not living with their children. There are, however, over 150 houses in the district (excluding old peoples bungalows) now occupied by only one person, many of them being owner/occupier.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS

DAIRIES & MILKSHOPS: The milk supply is plentiful and is distributed throughout the district directly by farmers and dairymen in the vicinity.

MILK SAMPLING: (a) Biological Tests - 11 samples - Result 8 negative  
3 positive  
(b) Methylene Blue  
Reduction Tests - 11 samples - Result 8 satisfactory  
3 unsatisfactory

RESULTS of Ministry investigations within the district during the year (arising from notifications by the Local Authority) as follows:

No. of Veterinary Inspections	3
No. of Cases where animals were Seized under Tuberculosis Order, 1938	1
No. of animals seized	1
No. of cases reported negative where animal had been sold prior to investigation	1
No. of cases reported	

The County Area Milk Production Officer was informed of the three samples taken from Dairy Farmers that failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue Test.

FOOD PREMISES Routine periodical inspections of all premises where food is prepared or sold have been carried out, and the premises generally have been found to be in fair order.

ICE-CREAM SAMPLING: Ten samples of ice-cream were taken from manufacturers and retailers throughout the district during the year for bacteriological examination. Eight samples were found to be satisfactory and two unsatisfactory. As a result of repeated poor bacteriological reports on samples taken from one manufacturer, advice was given and the occupier purchased a new Pasteuriser, and subsequent improvement was noticed in further samples taken. In the case of a very poor bacteriological report on a wrapped sample of ice-cream supplied from outside the district a letter was sent with the result of the sample to the Health Department of the district from which the ice-cream originated.

FOOD POISONING: Total number of outbreaks during the year - 1  
Number of Cases - 1  
Organisms or other agents responsible - Salmonella  
Foods involved - Unknown

\* This case was an isolated one in a family of three. No other members of the family were affected yet all ate the same food.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

All cases of infectious diseases were visited upon receipt of notification and where patients are not transferred to Isolation Hospital, they are isolated at home in one room of the house.

MEASLES            103 cases of measles were notified during the year. They were mostly of a mild type with no deaths.

WHOOPING COUGH   9 cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year.

DIPHTHERIA        One case of diphtheria was notified during the year. Subsequently the diagnosis was changed to tonsillitis.

SCARLET FEVER    14 cases of scarlet fever of a very mild type were notified.

POLIO MYELITIS    There was one case of poliomyelitis notified whose source of infection could not be discovered.

### DISINFECTION AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

No. of houses disinfected during 1951            ....            9  
Disinfectant used: Formaldehyde Vapour & Pine Spray.

### FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	6	16	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	56	75	9
TOTAL:	62	91	9

### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Number of Factory Chimneys in the District	4
Number of Observations taken during the year	17
Smoke nuisances discovered	Nil

There are no bye-laws in operation in the district relating to the time allowed for emission of black smoke, but all the boiler houses have been visited during the working period, and the plant and equipment appeared to be in good working order.

### RODENT CONTROL

	Local Authority Property	<u>TYPE OF PROPERTY</u> Dwelling -Houses	Agricultural	Others, incl. business and indust rial.
No. of infested properties treated by the local authority:	15	14	18	19
			<u>TOTAL: 66</u>	

In addition effective sewer treatment has been carried out twice during the year, a total of 141 manholes being baited.

